



**North East / North West Region
First Progress Report:
Actions to June 2016**

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Minister's Foreword



The Regional Action Plans for Jobs initiative is a key element in supporting the delivery of balanced regional development, which is a key priority of Government. The Programme for a Partnership Government sets a goal to help create 200,000 additional jobs by 2020. Importantly, 135,000 of those jobs are to be in the regions outside Dublin.

The Action Plan for Jobs for the North East/North West region, covering the counties of Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim, aims to build on the unique strengths of the region to support businesses to start up, grow and generate exports.

While much emphasis is placed on multi-nationals, we remain for the most part, an economy dependent on small, family business. Across the towns and villages of our regions, employment is heavily based on the SME sector. Ensuring these SMEs have access to both supports and market opportunities is vital to ensuring consistent and real recovery across the country. No matter what part of the country you are in, developing an idea with the support of the Local Enterprise Office and growing to scale is something we want to see happening more and more in every county. The LEO network is a great asset and my firm view is that it offers great potential to support job creation and help entrepreneurs and small businesses start up and grow.

Overall these reports demonstrate that real progress is being made on the Government ambition to ensure all regions reach their economic potential. We are nowhere near our endpoint, but we are getting better and enhancing both the employment and economic potential of the North East/North West region.

From a low of 171,500 in 2012, employment levels have now reached 196,300 in this region in Q3 2016 – an increase of 14.5%. The QNHS shows that there is positive jobs growth across a range of sectors, including Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Industry and Construction and Accommodation and Food Services.

In tandem with strong jobs growth, the unemployment rate has reduced from a high of 17.8% in 2012 to 9.2% in Q3 2016. This represents real progress and a major milestone for the North East/North West. Every job created has a real effect on men, women and children and the wider community. That is why we cannot be complacent about job creation but I am happy to see that we continue to move in the right direction

Contrary to popular belief, employment recovery is not confined to Dublin – in fact 72% of the new jobs created over the last twelve months have gone to people from outside Dublin. As was the case with all regions, the downturn in employment hit the North East/North West heavily in 2008 but there is potential to improve that and grow sustainable jobs in the region, based on the sectoral strengths, skills profile and innovative capacity within this region.

Every day, world-leading companies based in the North East/North West such as Kellton Tech Solutions, Combilift, Seaquest and Vesta Payment Solutions are showing that by investing in people and talent, global opportunities are possible regardless of the location. What we need to do is enhance the job-potential environment and ensure companies based in the region have access to global market opportunities. What this report demonstrates is that in regions like the North East/North West, with the right environment, world-leading companies, both Irish and foreign-owned, co-exist and create a dynamic enterprise base. Our enterprise agencies are available to provide assistance to companies at all stages of their journey, whether as start-ups, companies that are scaling or exporting or companies seeking to invest in Ireland

Government does not create jobs, but is an enabler of jobs. This region has rich potential in ICT, Fin tech, Tourism, Agri-food and Pharma and Medical Technology. We have responded to the crash, but now is the time to build resilience in the economy with a global competitive business offering

There is no doubt but that Brexit will test our economic resilience. Many companies in the North East/North West will have some exposure to the UK. Although there is still a lack of clarity as to the extent to which Brexit will impact on the businesses in the area, Enterprise Agencies are working with these companies to focus on talent, innovation, competitiveness and investing in people. This remains the best way to build resilience in a company.

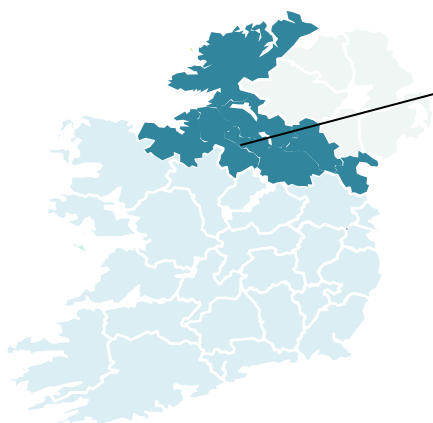
Of course the Regional Action Plans themselves will not solve everything. A full recovery requires more than just jobs. These Plans will be complemented by other programmes the Government is working on at national level, including the Action Plan for Rural Development, infrastructure projects, the Action Plan for Jobs, skills strategies and the Action Plan for Housing.

Employment recovery is a critical element of a wider social recovery. Now is not the time for complacency. Despite global uncertainty, the goal of full employment in the lifetime of this Government is within reach. This employment will be sustainable, built on the back of talent and innovation – something the North East/North West, with its excellent skills and talent base and strong education and research infrastructure, has in abundance.

I would also like to pay tribute to Richard Hanlon, the Chairman, the Enterprise Champions and all members of the Implementation Committee for their ongoing commitment to the North East/North West Regional Action Plan, to job creation within the region and in helping to drive the ambition of the Plan. The input which you bring to the process creates a real step-up in the level of innovation and jobs impact of this process. This is a genuine public service which will make a real impact to the North East/North West region.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mary Mitchell O'Connor'.

Mary Mitchell O'Connor, TD
Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

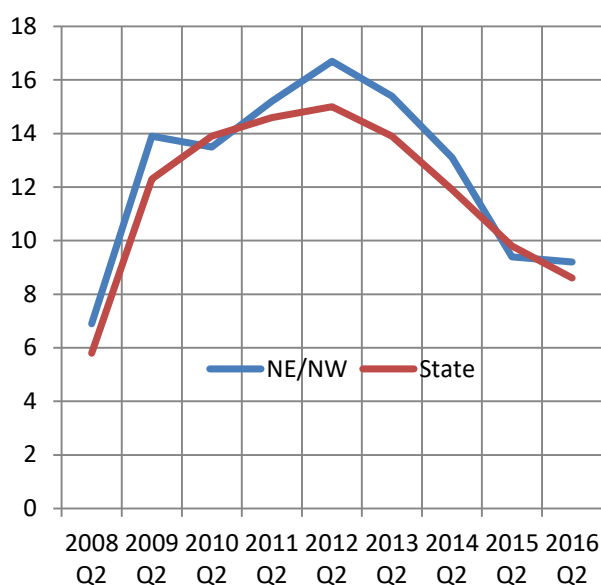


Employment Snapshot of the Region

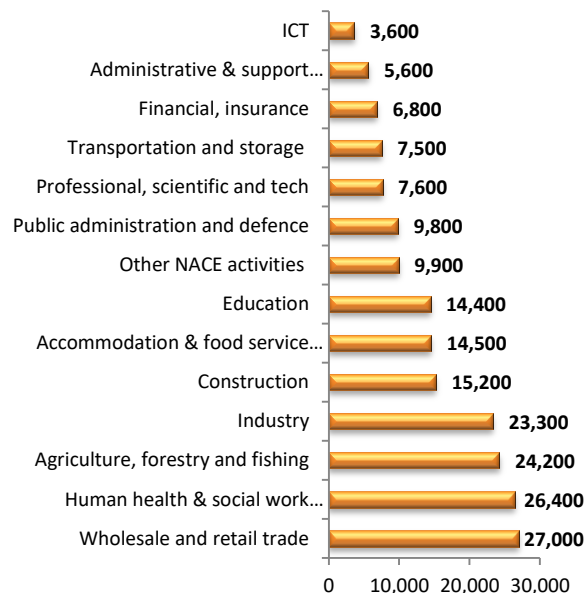
	2015Q1	2016Q1	2016Q2
Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment (000)	190.7	195.7	196.9
Unemployed Persons aged 15 years and over (000s)	21.5	18.2	19.7
Persons aged 15 years and over in Labour Force (000s)	212.2	213.9	216.6
ILO Unemployment Rate (15 - 74 years) (%)	10.2	8.6	9.2
ILO Participation Rate (15 years and over) (%)	55.7	56.3	57

Source CSO

Unemployment Rate (15 - 74 years) (%) by NUTS 3 Regions and Quarter - Source CSO



Employment by economic sector – Q2 2016
Source CSO



Employment/Unemployment Trends as at Q2 2016 (see above)

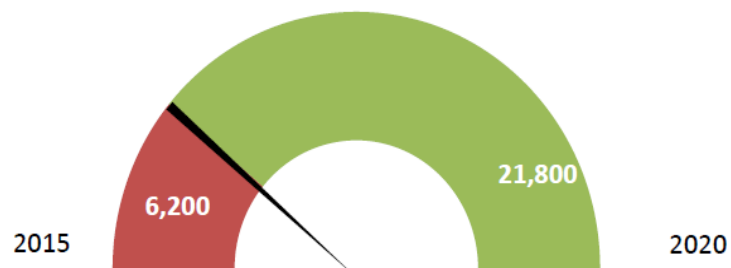
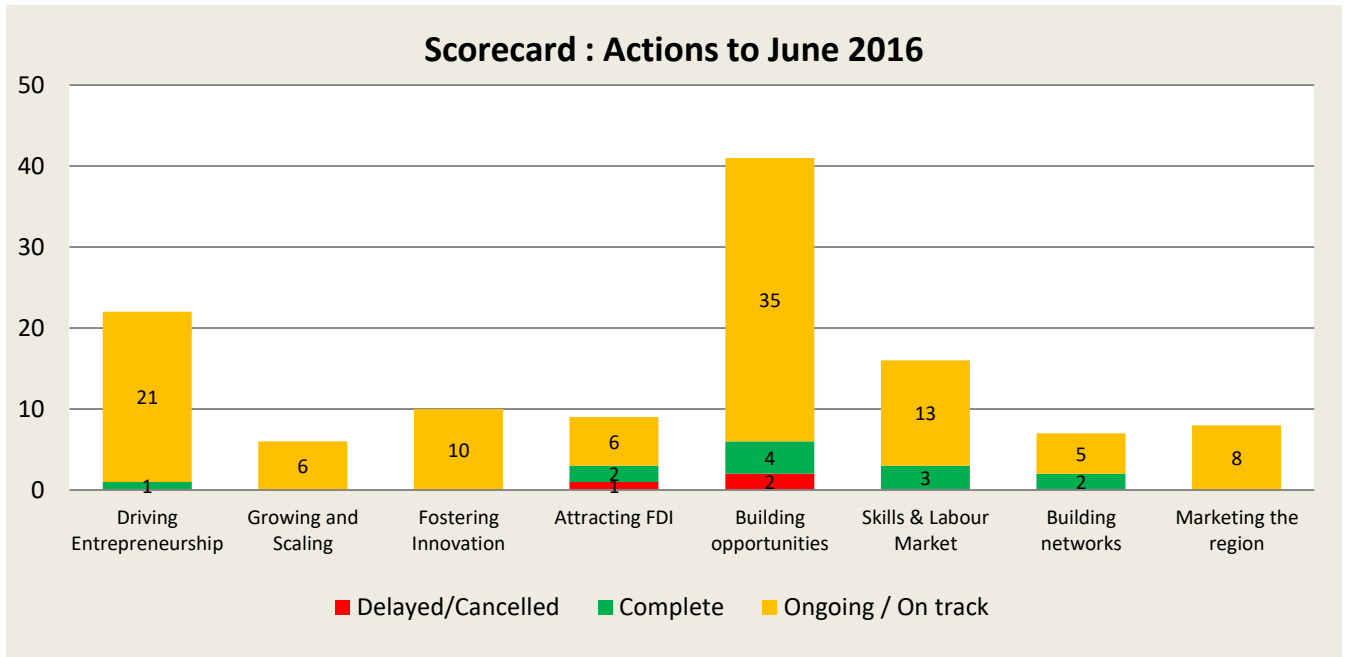
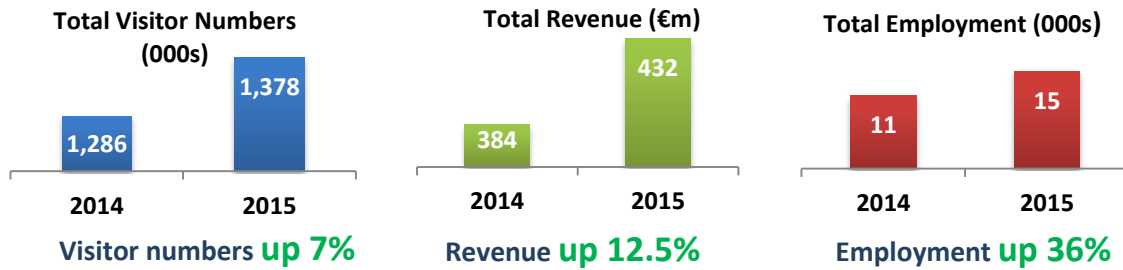
- The unemployment rate for the North East/North West region in Q2 2016 stood at 9.2%, compared to 8.6% for the State
- Between Q1 and Q2 2016, 1,200 additional people entered employment, while the number of unemployed persons declined by 1,500
- The size of the Labour Force also increased in this period (up 2,700), as did the participation rate (+0.7%)
- These trends (Unemployment down, Employment, Labour Force and participation up), can also generally be seen in the data from Q1 2015 to Q2 2016.

Source CSO QNHS Persons aged 15 and over by NUTS3 Regions, Statistical Indicator and Quarter

Sectoral breakdown of Employment as at Q2 2016 (see above)

- There were 196,900 people in employment in the North East/North West region in Q2 2016
- **Wholesale and retail trade** was the largest sector, employing 27,000 people, closely followed by **Human health and social work** with 26,400 employees
- Since the start of 2015, **Agriculture, forestry and fishing** has seen the largest increase in numbers employed of any sector in the region (up 4,300)
- Employment in **Construction** has seen the second largest increase (up 2,600) since Q1 2015)
- **Industry**, currently employing 23,300, has seen the largest decrease in the numbers employed since Q1 2015 (down 3,900 employees)

Tourism in the North East / North West Region 2014-2015



**Jobs Target for 2020-
APJ NE/NW Region Q1 2015 to Q2 2016**

Actions Due By June 2016 (H1 2016)

By the first half of 2016, of the 119 Actions and sub actions that had to be reported on for this first progress report, 12 have been delivered while 104 are on track for completion. Two actions that were due to be delivered by H2 2016 have been delayed (Actions 62 and 103), while 1 (Action 64) will not proceed due to resource constraints in Teagasc.

Opening Commentary

This is the first Progress Report from the Implementation Committee established by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to oversee and monitor implementation of the measures contained in the North East North East / North West Action Plan for Jobs 2015-2017. The report outlines progress made on measures due for completion up to and including the first half of 2016, as well as progress made on measures that are ongoing during the 2015-2017 period of the Action Plan.

The Action Plan for Jobs for the North East / North West Region was launched in November 2015, the 6th of 8 Regional Action Plans to be published, all of which will help deliver a key priority for Government – to deliver local jobs and ensure every region achieves its economic potential. The core objective of the Plan is to support the creation of an extra 28,000 jobs across the counties of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, and Louth by 2020 through the delivery of 152 collaborative actions. Key targets in service of this overall goal are to achieve:

- an increase of at least 25% in the number of start-ups in the region;
- a 25% improvement in the survival rate of new businesses;
- an increase in the number of IDA investments in the region by 30-40% up to 2019; and
- an increase of 300 to 500 in the numbers of Údarás na Gaeltachta supported jobs in the North West.

Sectors targeted as part of the plan include traditionally strong sectors for the region like agri-food, manufacturing/engineering and tourism, as well as areas targeted for future growth like digital payments, cleantech and creative services.

Increasing the number of people in employment by 28,000 by 2020 will represent a 15% growth in the numbers employed in the region in 2014. This constitutes an important step towards the Government's ambition of creating 200,000 extra jobs by 2020, with 135,000 of these to be outside Dublin.

The plans are monitored and driven in each region by Implementation Committees, comprising representatives from the Enterprise Sector, as well as the Local Authorities, Enterprise Agencies, Higher Educations Institutes and other public bodies in the region. The North East / North West Implementation Committee is chaired by Mr Richard Hanlon, Senior Vice President of Vesta Payment Solutions Limited.

In 2007, when the economy last enjoyed full employment, the North East / North West Region had an unemployment rate of 6%. The North East/ North West suffered badly in the crash, with employment falling by 50,400 from 2007 to Q4 2012 and the unemployment rate at that time

rising to 16.6%. The impact on the construction sector in the region was particularly significant, given that the sector accounted for 14% of employment in 2007. The numbers employed in this sector fell by over 20,000 between 2007 and 2011. The Manufacturing sector also suffered significant losses, with 8,000 jobs lost between 2007 and Q1 2012. However, this sector is recovering well, currently employing 27,200 in the Region (up from 24,200 in Q4 2012).

There has been a substantial improvement in employment in the North East / North West region since the commencement of the National Action Plan for Jobs in 2012, with an additional 22,400 in employment in Q2 2016 compared to Q1 2012¹. The unemployment rate in the region in Q2 2016 stood at 9.2%, compared to the national rate of 8.4%.

¹ Source: CSO QNHS Q2 2016

Key Highlights

1,144 jobs (gross) were created in the region in 2015 through the efforts of the North East / North West LEOs **(Actions 5 and 6)**



7 projects in the North East/North West region have been successful in securing funding through two Enterprise Ireland Regional Competitive Calls **(Actions 13 and 14)**



Development by Local Authorities in the region of new business incentive schemes to support retail and attract business into town centres **(Actions 25 and 89)**



Completion of 7 industry projects for SMEs and start-ups and commencement of a further 6 industry projects by the WiSAR Technology Gateway in Letterkenny IT **(Action 38)**



The establishment of a Skills Forum to connect education providers with employers and industry on an on-going basis to collaborate in building the skills of the region. **(Action 40)**



Marketing the North East/North West as a dynamic region with excellent competitive strengths to further attract foreign investment. **(Action 60)**



The creation of a 'digital payments hub' in Drogheda, and along the M1 economic corridor with the potential to create hundreds of sustainable new jobs. **(Action 78)**



SEAI has been very active in identifying opportunities in Green Energy and working with businesses to save in the region of 20% off their energy bills **(Action 84)**



Support provided to a wide range of tourism developments across the region including the Shannon-Erne Blueway. **(Action 99)**



Announcement of Enterprise Ireland Funding for Regional Projects

€50 million is being made available to the 8 regions out to 2020 through three competitive calls administered by Enterprise Ireland. These calls are being targeted at innovative and collaborative approaches to support job creation across the regions. In this context, on June 1st 2016, an initial allocation of €5m in competitive funding for local and regional initiatives was announced; the LEO Competitive Fund and the Community Enterprise Initiative. Among the 48 projects allocated funding as at Q2 2016 are:

LEO Competitive Fund

- **LEO Donegal, LEO Sligo, LEO Leitrim, LEO Cavan, LEO Monaghan, LEO Louth** secured funding for **the ACCELINVEST** initiative, which aims to create a clear pathway for export focused, investment-ready regional companies to progress from the LEO Network to Enterprise Ireland.
- **LEO Sligo, LEO Donegal** secured funding for a programme aimed at two particular cohorts of businesses, i.e. existing LEO clients and artisan producers trading in farmers' markets and other similar early stage niches.
The main objectives of the programme will be to increase the business potential and expertise of promoters, to foster innovation and know-how, increase turnover and sales and to equip participants to trade in new markets.
- **LEO Leitrim, LEO Cavan (with LEO Longford, LEO Roscommon)** secured funding for the Graduate Internship for Entrepreneurship Programme. Through this programme, graduates will be connected with full-time, paid internship centred on a two way skills transfer – graduates will transfer new skills and approaches, employers will transfer entrepreneurial learning and experience of running/managing a business.
- **LEO Leitrim, LEO Cavan (with LEO Longford, LEO Roscommon)** secured funding for an Initiative, which will provide the opportunity for shared learning, dynamic trade development and knowledge transfer in the creative sector which will result in job creation and greater sustainability of the often challenged creative sector with a specific emphasis on the craft sector.

Community Enterprise Initiative Fund

- **Creative Spark Limited**
This project seeks to support the employment of a skilled manager who will implement a strategic collaboration programme between Creative Spark and Millmount Development Centre to scale up enterprise development supports; to undertake a feasibility study into establishing a FabLab for Co. Louth; and to participate in a series of collaborative actions with NACEC
- **Bailieborough Development Association Limited**
Funding has been approved to support expansion of business activities; offering advice to business on funding opportunities, training programmes, business development, networking etc. Expanding the existing state of the art business facilities through the development and renovation of the Bailieborough Courthouse.
- **Convoy Enterprise Centre Limited**
The development of an Online Fulfilment and Distribution Hub to empower indigenous Irish companies to sell directly across the European Union.

Further funding calls will be announced in early 2017.

Announcements

SHANNON-ERNE BLUEWAY

The Shannon-Erne Blueway, which was officially launched on 28 May 2016, links Leitrim Village with Belturbet, Co Cavan and provides a 70km series of paddling journeys, 25kms of walking trails and 8kms of cycling trails. There are also plans to upgrade a further 8kms this year. Based on existing monitoring of visitor usage, Waterways Ireland expects that 100,000 people will use the Shannon-Erne Blueway over the next year.

KELLTON TECH SOLUTIONS LIMITED

In April 2016 Kellton Tech Solutions Limited, the global IT Company announced its decision to establish its EMEA headquarters in Drogheda, Co. Louth, creating 100 jobs over five years. Kellton Tech enables businesses to make the digital leap through its broad range of IT offerings with particular focus on ISMAC (Internet of things, Social, Mobile, Analytics, Cloud) and ERP-EAI (Enterprise Resource Planning & Enterprise Application Integration. The Irish headquarters will also house an R&D facility to facilitate the localisation of its flagship product KLGAMETM - an IoT uptake using beacons, wearables, smartphones and other digital technologies for revolutionary applications.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICES

The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo play an important role in job creation. They are an excellent example of a collaborative partnership between the LEOs, Enterprise Ireland, local authorities and their parent Departments in delivering supports and signposting to start ups, microenterprise and small businesses nationwide. Through the efforts of the North East / North West LEOs, a total of 1,144 jobs (gross) were created in the region in 2015.

REGIONAL SKILLS FORA

Two Regional Skills Fora (North East Forum and North West Forum), which include the Institutes of Technology in the region and the Education and Training Boards, have been established to connect education providers with employers to build the skills of the region. The Fora also include Chambers of Commerce, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, LEOs, IBEC, Department of Social Protection, Local Authorities as members. Regional Skills Managers were appointed in 2016 and are members of the North East / North West Implementation Committee.

FOSTERING INNOVATION

Since the launch of the NE/NW Action Plan in November 2015, the WiSAR Technology Gateway in Letterkenny IT has completed 7 industry projects for SMEs and start-ups and commenced a further 6 industry projects. Letterkenny IT and Sligo IT are part of a nationwide network of 15 Technology Gateways established by Enterprise Ireland, in partnership with the Institutes of

Technology, which provide industry with a mix of design and technical expertise to help prototype and implement new products, as well as help upgrade the industrial strength of the region.

IT Sligo is also currently pursuing the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Precision Engineering & Manufacturing (PEM), which will allow for the development of specialist precision engineering technologies now essential to ensure to compete globally. Progress to date includes a €1m investment in state-of-the-art equipment, approval of new engineering programmes for students and the designation by Enterprise Ireland (Jan 2016) of the PEM Strategic Research Centre.

ENERGY / RENEWABLES

SEAI has been very active in identifying opportunities in Green Energy and working with businesses to save in the region of 20% off their energy bills. In Louth, SEAI has worked with Louth County Council and the Louth Meath Education and Training Board to develop a training course for small business energy managers. This has now commenced and is a model for other regions to follow. It will provide savings to the 45 businesses signed up in Louth as well as provide training for up to 20 course attendees.

RETAIL

New business incentive schemes to support retail and attract business into town centres are being developed by Local Authorities in the region. For example, County Louth put in place a Rates Incentive, a Shop Front Improvement Scheme and Shop Front Guidelines. Also a new scheme has also been introduced to encourage the occupation of vacant properties in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee. Businesses occupying a property which has been vacant for 2 years or more can avail of a rates reduction of 50% in year 1 and 25% in year 2.

NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN (Progress to June 2016)

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) aims to deliver high speed services to every city, town, village and individual premises in Ireland. The Programme for a Partnership Government commits to the delivery of the NBP as a matter of priority. This is being achieved through private investment by commercial telecommunications companies and through a State intervention in areas where commercial investment is not forthcoming.

The procurement process formally commenced in December 2015 with the publication of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and Project Information Memorandum. Five responses were received from prospective bidders to this stage of the competitive procurement process by the deadline of 31 March 2016. These responses have been evaluated by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources from a technical, financial and legal compliance perspective. A number of companies have qualified to proceed to the next stage of the

procurement process, in which qualified bidders will be invited to formally dialogue with the Department, based on detailed schedules drawn up by the Department.

BREXIT (Position at end-June 2016)

The UK decision will not take effect for some time and the precise implications of the referendum result will now depend on the period of negotiation ahead, involving the UK and our EU partners.

Government has a clear plan in place to respond to the referendum outcome and has a Contingency Framework which maps the key issues that will be most important to Ireland in the coming weeks, months and years, including the future changing trading relationship between the UK and Ireland, and the protection of jobs here, both of which are of course interlinked.

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation is fully engaged in the risk analysis and contingency planning work that is being undertaken at cross-Government level, led by the Department of the Taoiseach.

The Government, the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the enterprise agencies are fully committed to supporting business in this period of heightened uncertainty; however, this is being done against the background of a strong economy and a highly competitive enterprise sector.

There have been multiple contacts already between IDA and Enterprise Ireland and their respective senior business clients.

Enterprise Ireland, has already set up a helpline and email address to provide assistance to its clients, and will implement a range of plans to assist Irish exporters. In addition, EI will fine-tune existing support tools to address new UK market conditions.

The IDA will continue to market Ireland across the globe as the number one location for foreign direct investment.

Action Updates

Driving entrepreneurship

Action 1

Increase the number of entrepreneurs and start-ups in the North East/ North West through initiatives such as:

- **Enterprise Start workshops;**
- **New Frontiers Entrepreneurial Development Programme in Dundalk Institute of Technology, IT Sligo and Letterkenny Institute of Technology;**
- **Start your own Business Programmes; and**
- **Enterprise related training**

Update: **Ongoing**

Narrative:

The **Enterprise Start** workshop scheduled for 10 May was cancelled due to disappointing take up. This was despite an intensive promotion campaign undertaken through radio, print, online and social media.

New Frontiers Programme Phase 1 completed in DKIT/DCU. 12 participants have been selected for Phase 2 DKIT/DCU. 50 participants are currently on Phase 1 in IT Sligo/LYIT until end June.

47 participated in the 3 **Start Your Own Business** programmes in Co Leitrim in Quarters 1 and 2, 2016.

Action 2

Enterprise Ireland will implement the findings from the review of the New Frontiers Entrepreneurial Development Programme in order to evolve the programme to maximise positive impact on entrepreneurship in the region.

Update: **Ongoing**

Narrative:

Start-up formation is supported by a range of players at a regional level, such as the Local Enterprise Offices, the Local Authorities, the BICs, the Higher Education Sector and Enterprise Ireland. To contribute to supporting start-up creation nationally, Enterprise Ireland provides a range of supports which are available regionally.

Enterprise Start Workshops

These workshops target people who have an idea for an innovative and ambitious start-up business that has the potential for exporting and growth in International Markets. The objective of these workshops is to explore key business areas of focus, such as customer,

market and funding needs. Enterprise Ireland generally runs two Enterprise Start Programmes in the region each year. The next Enterprise Start is planned for the second half of 2016.

New Frontiers Entrepreneurial Development Programme

New Frontiers is Enterprise Ireland's national entrepreneur development programme for innovative, early-stage start-ups. It is a three-phased programme, based in 14 campus incubation centres across the country. Nationally, each year, New Frontiers funds approximately 150 companies. In the NE/NW Region, New Frontiers is delivered in two areas - IT Sligo and LYIT in the North West and DKIT for the North-East (in partnership with DCU and Enterprise Ireland). In 2015, 60 people participated in Phase 1 (6 weeks part-time), 20 projects progressed to Phase 2 (6 months full-time) and 10 progressed to Phase 3 (3 months full-time). In 2016, Enterprise Ireland's Board approved the funding of a revised New Frontiers programme. DKIT and DCU have recently commenced a pilot delivery of this new 3-phase structured programme.

There are twelve participants, drawn from the Food, IT, Consumer and Industrial products sectors. 8 are from Louth, 2 Dublin, 1 Meath and 1 Cavan.

Competitive Feasibility Fund

Enterprise Ireland ran a programme in the NW in Q1 2015 with 3 companies successful in getting funding of up to €25k against a €50k spend (50% max).

Competitive Start Fund

The purpose of the Competitive Start Fund (CSF) is to accelerate the growth of start-up companies that have the capability to succeed in global markets through the provision of €50,000 seed capital per company, against a €5,000 matched funding. Enterprise Ireland has a number of targeted CSF initiatives each year (approximately every two months), with funding of 10 to 15 projects per initiative. These initiatives have, in the past years, targeted specific sub-groups e.g. female entrepreneurs, graduate entrepreneurship and regionally based entrepreneurs and included sectors like Agri-tech and ICT.

Action 4

Údarás na Gaeltachta will implement measures to support early stage business with a particular focus on regional competitive advantage in specific sectors, including cultural tourism, audio-visual and digital technology, marine resources, niche manufacturing, food beverages and creative language-based services.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

A number of Feasibility Study and other grant aid projects were approved in the Gaeltacht area in 2016 and other potential projects are in the pipeline.

Number of projects approved - 10

Investment by the promoters - €915k

Grant Aid Approved - €171k

Equity investment approved - €150k
Projected Jobs – 27

Action 5

Each of the 3 Local Enterprise Offices in the North East will aim to increase employment in its baseline through increased start-ups and the scaling of existing clients. Local Enterprise Development Plans will be developed, setting out clear targets and objectives to support start-ups and enterprises in their region. Key aggregate targets for the North East LEOs for 2015 are:

- Over €1.1m will be available in grant assistance and enterprise development supports;
- Almost 438 participants will attend Start Your Own Business courses;
- Over 670 women will participate on core LEO training programmes (Start Your Own Business, Accelerate, Hi Start, Export Awareness, Lean, Mentoring);
- 1700 students in almost 60 schools will participate in Student Enterprise programme;
- 60 Online Trading Vouchers will be awarded to eligible enterprises;
- 20 microfinance applications will be processed and submitted to MFI. These targets will be further developed in 2016 and 2017.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Local Enterprise Development Plans were completed by the three LEOs in the North East in Q1 2016, with targets and outputs agreed in support of start-ups and enterprises in the region.

In Louth, €400,000 was available in grant assistance and enterprise supports for H2 2015 and H1 2016. 146 (98 female, 48 male) attended Start Your Own Business courses. 564 (340 female, 224 male) participated in core LEO training programmes. 857 Primary School students from 23 schools and 739 Secondary School students from 16 schools were involved in Student Enterprise programmes and activities. 39 Trading Online Vouchers (TOV) were approved and 9 Microfinance Ireland (MFI) applications processed and submitted.

In Cavan for 2015, €330,000 in grant aid was available. 186 attended SYOB training and 328 females availed of LEO core training and mentoring. In the Student Enterprise Awards Programme, 7 schools and 231 students were involved. 12 TOV Vouchers were approved and 7 MFI applications processed.

In Cavan for 2016, grant aid - €142,000; SYOB - 85; female participation - 152; Student Enterprise Awards Programme - 6 schools/188 students; TOV Vouchers - 6; MFI Applications - 5.

In Monaghan in 2016, 2 SYOBs were delivered with 23 attending. 11 Schools took part in the Student Enterprise Programme with 360 students attending. TOV - 7.

The LEO also assists with MFI applications.

Action 6

Each of the 3 Local Enterprise Offices in the North West will aim to increase employment in its baseline through increased start-ups and the scaling of existing clients. Local Enterprise Development Plans will be developed, setting out clear targets and objectives to support start-ups and enterprises in their region. Key aggregate targets for the North West LEOs for 2015 are:

- Almost €1.1m will be available in grant assistance and enterprise development supports;
- Over 150 participants will attend Start Your Own Business courses;
- Over 400 women will participate on core LEO training programmes (Start Your Own Business, Accelerate, Hi Start, Export Awareness, Lean, Mentoring);
- Over 1,000 students in almost 40 schools will participate in Student Enterprise programme; 60 Online Trading Vouchers will be awarded to eligible enterprises;
- Almost 20 microfinance applications will be processed and submitted to MFI.

These targets will be further developed in 2016 and 2017.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Draft Enterprise Development Plans have been submitted by all 3 LEOs and proposed actions for 2016 are on track.

Specifically in Leitrim, 47 clients have attended SYOB year-to-date, 28 of which were female. 37 females received one-to-one mentoring during this period. 204 students from 6 Secondary Schools participated in the Student Enterprise Awards Programme. 13 Trading Online Vouchers have been approved in 2016. Two applications for Microfinance Ireland were submitted.

In Sligo, in addition to its core funding business, the LEO has supported a number of applications for funding from external sources. It is expected that the specific target for SYOB courses and rate of female participation will be achieved; likewise, in respect of student entrepreneurship and Trading Online Vouchers. MFI applications in Sligo are running ahead of target this year.

Action 7

The Local Enterprise Offices will maximise collaboration with the Community Enterprise Centres to assist start-ups and existing businesses to grow and develop.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

LEOs continue to liaise and communicate with Community Enterprise Centres (CECs) in

supporting and augmenting the services available for start-ups and existing businesses.

In Louth, LEO sits on the Boards of 3 CECs (Creative Spark Dundalk, The Mill Drogheda, Ardee Dev Co Ltd.) and is actively involved in a fourth (Oriel Hub, Dundalk)

In Donegal, the implementation of this action is currently under review.

In Monaghan, the LEO engages with CECs and refers clients to them, as appropriate.

In Leitrim, the LEO has had a meeting with all the Enterprise Centres in the County and a follow-up will take place in Q3 2016.

In Cavan, the LEO works in close co-operation with CECs to promote the availability of workspace for the start-up and existing business community. It also assists in the identification and/or referral of potential tenants for the centres, particularly in terms of additional business supports i.e. mentoring and training requirements. In 2015, an anchor tenant was secured (with the support of Cavan LEO) for the new Cootehill Enterprise & Technology Centre.

In Sligo, a new Community Enterprise Centre has recently been opened in Tubbercurry, following active engagement by the LEO in sourcing REDZ (Rural Economic Development Zone) funding. The Enterprise Centre has secured the long-term usage of a building on favourable terms. The LEO will continue to work with all CECs and, in particular, will maintain the electronic contacts it has with CECs and their clients, sharing information on LEO and other programmes and supports.

Action 8

The local authorities in the North East/ North West, as in other areas, will each develop and publish a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), setting out, for a six-year period, objectives and actions to support economic development and local and community development in their administrative regions. Following adoption of the plans Local Authorities will carry out a scoping exercise to identify opportunities for collaboration on a regional level where similar actions have been identified across a number of plans.

Update: **Ongoing**

Narrative:

In Louth, the LECP was adopted in March 2016. Plan publication and launch are being scheduled. The monitoring committee is in place.

In Monaghan, the LECP was adopted in March 2016. Plan publication and launch scheduled for June. The monitoring committee is in place.

In Donegal, the LECP has been approved by full Council. The LCDC is currently determining the actions required - short term, medium term and long term

In Leitrim, the LECP is completed and Leitrim has been participating in a number of joint actions with other Local Authorities e.g. the Greenway between Manorhamilton and Enniskillen and a feasibility study for a Greenway between Sligo and Manorhamilton. Additional joint projects are being progressed in the areas of diaspora, food, tourism and creative enterprises, through collaboration in the Upper Shannon Erne Initiative with Counties Cavan, Roscommon and Longford.

In Cavan, the LECP was adopted in February 2016. Plan publication and launch are planned for July 2016. An LECP implementation group is in place to oversee the implementation of the Plan, in conjunction with the LCDC.

Action 9

The eight Local Development Companies in the region will provide an area-based response to long-term unemployment and deliver a range of programmes to support entrepreneurship and social enterprise. The Local Development Companies will work with the LEOs, with a view to progressing clients to the LEO services.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

A National Protocol on the operation of LEADER funding via Local Development Companies and LEOs is awaiting final approval from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation.

Action 10

Local Development Strategies for the delivery of the LEADER programme over the period 2015-2020 will be developed.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In Louth, Monaghan and Donegal, the LCDC has completed/approved the Local Development Strategy for the County for the purposes of the Rural Development Programme. It is expected that the LEADER programme will be approved and launched in County Louth in September 2016. The National Launch of the LEADER Programme will take place in Virginia Show Centre, County Cavan in July 2016.

Action 11

Local Economic and Community plans to include sub-committee with all public agencies responsible for start-ups to meet quarterly to develop a process for

- i. Sharing and communicating information on funding supports to start ups from different agencies
- ii. Coordinating on start-up awards to positively promote entrepreneurship in the region

- iii. Identifying ambassadors for business in each county
- iv. Communicating to businesses the opportunities that exist from European funding available to the region with a view to maximising the drawdown of European funding.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Louth, Monaghan, Cavan and Donegal LEOs held an Enterprise Week in Q2 2016. Enterprise Awards competitions were held and the winners represented their respective Counties at the National Final, which was held in Dublin in June 2016.

In Leitrim, the County Council maintains an ongoing liaison with development agencies. A Young Entrepreneurs Programme has been established. The LECF is completed and work on Implementation Groups will commence in September 2016.

Action 13

Enterprise Ireland will evaluate proposals under the national €5m Community Enterprise Initiative. Enterprise Ireland will support and monitor successful applicants under the €5m Community Enterprise Initiative Scheme launched in 2015.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

3 projects from the regions were approved funding under the Community Enterprise Initiative:

- Creative Spark Limited, Co Louth
- Bailieborough Development Association Limited
- Convoy Enterprise Centre Limited

Action 14

Enterprise Ireland will evaluate proposals under the National €5 million Competitive LEO fund.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

A total of 4 projects involving LEOs from the region are being funded for the creation of collaborative projects in the region.

- LEO Donegal, LEO Sligo, LEO Leitrim, LEO Cavan, LEO Monaghan, LEO Louth secured funding for the ACCELINVEST initiative, which aims to create a clear pathway for export focused, investment-ready regional companies to progress from the LEO Network to Enterprise Ireland.

- LEO Sligo, LEO Donegal secured funding for a programme aimed at two particular cohorts of businesses, i.e. existing LEO clients and artisan producers trading in farmers' markets and other similar early stage niches.

The main objectives of the programme will be to increase the business potential and expertise of promoters, to foster innovation and know-how, increase turnover and sales and to equip participants to trade in new markets.

- LEO Leitrim, LEO Cavan (with LEO Longford, LEO Roscommon) secured funding for the Graduate Internship for Entrepreneurship Programme. Through this programme, graduates will be connected with full-time, paid internship centred on a two way skills transfer – graduates will transfer new skills and approaches, employers will transfer entrepreneurial learning and experience of running/managing a business.
- LEO Leitrim, LEO Cavan (with LEO Longford, LEO Roscommon) secured funding for an Initiative, which will provide the opportunity for shared learning, dynamic trade development and knowledge transfer in the creative sector which will result in job creation and greater sustainability of the often challenged creative sector with a specific emphasis on the craft sector.

Action 15

Údarás na Gaeltachta will develop annual enterprise development plans for the Gaeltacht area in the region, setting out targets to support entrepreneurship, enterprise growth and job creation.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Regional plan was developed and is assessed through Údarás na Gaeltachta KPIs for 2016. See Action 16 for progress on job creation.

Action 16

Údarás na Gaeltachta will target an increase in new jobs of between 15 and 25% in the North West as well as continuing to support 1,942 jobs.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In 2015, UnaG approved the creation of 51 full time positions in the North West region with an investment of €4.8 million. Up to and including September 2016, Údarás na Gaeltachta approved the creation of 159 jobs with an investment of €3.4 million.

Action 18

Run a national pilot competitive entrepreneurial development programme to target up to 48 female entrepreneurs based outside of urban centres.

Update: Complete

Narrative:

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine rolled out the female entrepreneur development programme in 2015 and this programme completed in April 2016. There were 48 participants. The Department plans to build on the experience gained in last year's programme in 2016. This action is complete for 2015.

Action 20

InterTrade Ireland will run its annual Seedcorn Competition on a regional basis, to give companies the opportunity to improve their investor readiness and greatly increase their chances of raising equity. Local companies will have the opportunity to compete on a regional basis for a prize of €20,000. The regional winner can go on to compete for overall prizes of €50,000 and €100,000.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Three regional Seedcorn workshops were held in Letterkenny, Sligo and Dundalk in H1 2016. The Dundalk workshop was held in DKIT in April with 10 attendees. The Letterkenny workshop was held in LYIT in April with 6 attendees and the Sligo workshop in the same month attracted 6 attendees.

At the initial closing date for the competition on 27th May, there were 21 registrations from the North East region. Of these 11 have been invited to submit a business plan by the closing date of 2nd September 2016.

Action 21

Increase awareness and take up of national public and private sector supports to provide access to finance to start ups and existing businesses.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

A variety of channels is used on a continuous basis to make entrepreneurs and existing companies aware of the range of financial supports available. These include 1-1 consultations with executives of Enterprise Ireland (regionally and nationally based), briefing seminars, provision of relevant literature, attendance at exhibitions and conferences to promote the

supports to new audiences. Promotion is also enhanced through the use of social media (regionally & nationally) and ezines.

In Donegal, a series of information/awareness events in five locations are planned for the Autumn.

Leitrim LEO promotes Microfinance Ireland (MFI), Skillnets, DSP supports as well as LEADER to clients, on an ongoing basis. An Access to Finance workshop was delivered during Enterprise Week 2016.

Cavan LEO promotes the availability of all finance supports for start-ups and existing businesses through its service provision. Specifically in 2016, it held a seminar during Enterprise Week called 'Funding Options for Business'. All the key enterprise agencies participated, informing attendees of the National finance supports available. The CEO of MicroFinance Ireland also gave a presentation on access to finance through its scheme (via the LEOs). InterTradelreland presented on its supports and all the main banks had an exhibition stand at the seminar.

The Cavan LEO recently supported the promotion of a dedicated information event organised by a local accountancy practice, featuring presentations by Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland.

The Sligo LEO has an active electronic communications system circulated to around 2,000 clients regularly. It has been actively engaging with the newly formed Sligo Business Improvement District Company. MFI is promoted through traditional and social media. The LEO sponsored a major event in Sligo in April 2016, in conjunction with Ocean FM, highlighting opportunities in the region and also available supports with materials from the various agencies on display. Likewise, it has participated in a major engineering event hosted by IT Sligo in May.

Louth LEO promotes a range of funding sources available to start-up and existing businesses, including MicroFinance Ireland, Louth County Enterprise Fund, InterTradelreland, Enterprise Ireland, Credit Review Office, SBCI, Department of Communications Online Trading Scheme, DSP, HBAN and LEADER. Two finance seminars were delivered during Enterprise Week involving all the funders listed. An additional two finance training workshops were also delivered during the first half of 2016. Louth LEO participated in a number of Chamber of Commerce and Network Louth business briefings, highlighting funding sources available. The LEO has established an electronic subscriber base and provides weekly updates to 2,400 clients. It has produced a 'Sources of Financial Support' guide, which is available on its website.

Action 22

InterTradelreland will host 4 workshops under their 'Funding for Growth' initiative in the North East/ North West to promote all traditional and non-traditional sources of finance to local businesses, as well as providing an opportunity to meet with a corporate finance expert.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Funding for Growth workshop is scheduled for Sligo on 6th Oct 16. This workshop is the 9th workshop to be delivered across the island in 2016 from a series of 11 workshops - but the first for the Sligo region.

Action 23

InterTradelreland will deliver a series of equity awareness events at regional level including the unique equity advisory clinics where companies can meet with an equity expert, business planning workshops and venture capital case studies.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

An equity advisory clinic was held in Sligo in March 2016 and one is scheduled for Letterkenny in October. The March clinic had full attendance with 5 meeting slots. At these clinics, companies have the opportunity to engage with a venture capital professional on a one-to-one basis. There are three equity clinics scheduled each month - one in Belfast, one in Dublin and one in another location (e.g. Sligo last March). Companies in the NE have the option to attend the Dublin clinic.

Action 24

Undertake a review of incubation space and property solutions within the region, from pre start-up incubation facilities, through to scaling up to full manufacturing capacity. Identify gaps/shortages and develop a programme of investment requirements.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In Louth, a study of vacant commercial property and potential sites for enterprise in the Drogheda area was commissioned and is due to be completed in July 2016. A similar study of the Dundalk area will be commissioned in the second half of 2016.

In Donegal, an initial review of community and private sector space has been completed. A review of food incubation space is now in the planning stage.

In Leitrim, the County Council has prepared an initial database of vacant properties available for rent and has made this available on its website.

In Cavan, a database of commercial properties to rent and buy has been compiled and is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Action 25

Identify strategic sites in the region that have low occupancy or are vacant or derelict with a view to making them accessible for start-ups and SMEs (e.g. creative sector, living labs, hot desks) through incentive schemes to encourage occupancy.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In Louth, a new Business Incentive Scheme has been introduced to encourage the occupation of vacant properties in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee. Businesses which occupy a property in a designated area, which has been vacant for 2 years or more, will be able to avail of a rates reduction of 50% in year 1 and 25% in year 2. This scheme is funded by Louth County Council and managed through the Local Enterprise Office.

In addition, a Rates Incentive, a Shop Front Improvement Scheme and Shop Front Guidelines have been developed by Louth County Council. The Shop Front Improvement Scheme provides businesses in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee with 50% grant support (up to a maximum of €2,000) towards improvements in the appearance of their business front.

Donegal will follow on from the review of findings from Action 24.

In Monaghan, Hot Desk facilities in M:TEK in Monaghan town and C:TEK in Carrickmacross support entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Leitrim County Council has developed a Town Centre Incentive Scheme to encourage business start-ups in Carrick-on-Shannon. Projects in both Carrick-on-Shannon and Manorhamilton are managing the development of key sites in those towns.

Cavan County Council, through its Town Team initiative, is exploring potential opportunities for vacant commercial and retail units in Cavan. As part of the Digital Strategy, Cavan County Council is in the process of identifying and securing a suitable premises in Cavan Town for the development of its Digital Hub.

Action 27

Údarás na Gaeltachta will develop additional enterprise / innovation units in Aislann, Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair to provide accommodation for start-ups.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

This action is on track. A total of 479 sq.ms. is being developed at a cost of €550k and the project will be completed in Q4 2016.

Supporting Business to Grow and Scale

Action 30

InterTradelreland will promote its Acumen and Elevate programmes in the North East/ North West

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

InterTradelreland (ITI) has an ongoing outreach programme, liaising with the LEOs and Údarás na Gaeltachta, to promote these programmes. Enterprise Ireland, the LEO network and Údarás na Gaeltachta are represented on ITI's assessment panel for the Acumen Programme. All of these organisations signpost companies to ITI programmes on a monthly basis.

Action 32

InterTradelreland will set a target of at least 14 Acumen approvals to investigate and pursue export opportunities in Northern Ireland.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

From July 2015 to date, 11 companies in the region have been approved for Acumen support. This is well ahead of schedule and indications are that this target will be exceeded.

Action 33

Through its Trade Accelerator Voucher scheme, InterTradelreland will help companies to identify and break down barriers to trade leading to new export opportunities in Northern Ireland.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

InterTradelreland have an ongoing outreach programme liaising with the LEOs and Údarás na Gaeltachta to promote the Voucher scheme. ITI have made contact or met with all the LEOs in each region to promote the TAV scheme.

Action 34

Through the INTERREG VA Programme SEUPB will support cross-border business investment in Research & Innovation with an ERDF allocation of €15.9m. The key outputs will focus on SMEs with 1,408 receiving a range of support including: collaboration with research institutions; innovation advice; collaborative research projects.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) opened a call for applications for this priority on 7 September 2015. A thematic workshop for potential applicants was held on 23rd September 2015 in Belfast. Three applications were received by the call closing date (21st October 2015). Two of these have progressed to stage 2 of the assessment process and will be considered by the steering committee in Q3 2016.

Action 35

InterTradelreland will deliver 4 public tendering workshops for SMEs in the North East/ North West over the period 2015-2016 and will provide relevant training for local small businesses in the region. InterTradelreland will also promote public tendering opportunities to SMEs in the region including cross border public sector opportunities, consortia building for larger contracts and below threshold contracts.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

InterTradelreland has delivered 6 workshops / seminars in the region to date and plans further workshops through its new Phase 7 programme. Workshops staged were as follows:

1. InterTradelreland, in partnership with OGP, presented a public procurement workshop in Sligo on 25/11/2015 attended by Sligo Chamber and Sligo LEO. 25 companies participated in the event.
2. As part of the Local Government Strategic Procurement Board initiative, ITI, in partnership with Cavan County Council, delivered a workshop to 80 companies in Cavan Town on 23/02/2015.
3. Cross-border Go2Tender two-day training workshop for Louth LEO and Down companies 16/23 March 2015 was attended by 27 companies.
4. Cross-border Go2Tender two-day training workshop for Monaghan LEO / Cavan LEO / Armagh companies held in Armagh 6/13 August 2015 for 25 companies.
5. Public procurement presentations delivered for National Enterprise Week 2016 in Cootehill (41 attended), Castleblayney (80 attended) and Dundalk (15 attended).
6. Monaghan (Clones) 'Introduction to Tendering' half-day workshop, in partnership with PLATO EBR network, attended by 12 participants.

Workshop outcomes include; increased knowledge of all island public procurement market, etender platforms, upcoming pipelines and specific steps that SMEs need to take to make their businesses more tender ready.

The workshop presentations provide detail on the public tendering market and how SMEs can take practical steps to take advantage of the opportunities available. By working in partnership with LEOs and Local Council Procurement Officers, ITI makes attendees aware of low value tender

opportunities and how to best go about accessing this lucrative market. Attendees are made aware of the public tender training available and get access to local procurement officers.

Action 36

Build on the global sourcing and collaboration initiative and increase activity in this area to enhance the regional offering and increase collaboration with existing clients, and provide opportunities for Irish Companies to engage with IDA companies.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

On Wednesday 18 May, a Global Sourcing (Trade Mission in Ireland) was held in Sligo, organised jointly by EI and IDA. Twenty IDA clients and 52 EI clients registered for the event. Over 100 one-on-one meetings were organised.

Fostering Innovation

Action 37

Enterprise Ireland, through the Technology Transfer Offices, will promote outreach activities to industry.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Enterprise Ireland, through its agreements with LYIT, Sligo IT, DKIT and DCU, has set targets for company involvement in Technology Transfer, licencing, patents and R&D projects to be completed with its client base in the region (and beyond).

Action 38

The Technology Gateway National Network will continue to carry out industry research. Within this, the WISAR Technology Gateway based in Letterkenny IT will hold an industry open day each year 2016/2017.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The WiSAR Technology Gateway organised an information day at its Killybegs Campus on 13 May. The subject was 'The Internet of Things, bringing Innovation to Every Business'. Speakers were drawn from industry, academia and Enterprise Ireland. 40 people attended, including several

companies from the North West. Another event is planned for the Autumn.

In the first 4 months of 2016, the WiSAR Technology Gateway has completed 7 industry projects for SMEs and start-ups and has commenced a further 6 industry projects.

Currently, the WiSAR Lab has 9 full-time and 2 part-time staff.

Action 40

The ETBs and IoTs in the region will continue to build on their engagement with industry and seek to increase industry collaboration within the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The NW Regional Skills Forum has appointed a manager. Since this appointment, LYIT, IT Sligo, Donegal ETB and MSL ETB have met to formulate a strategy document and action plan.

This engagement is ongoing in each of the HEIs through research projects, student placements, industry training and guest speakers.

Within Dundalk Institute of Technology, during 2015 and 2016, the Regional Development Centre supported 25 entrepreneurs through EI's New Frontiers programme. DkIT was engaged in a number of Innovation Vouchers and Fusion projects with industry. In October 2015, the Institute hosted its Industry and Careers Fair on-campus, involving 50 companies from the region.

An MoU was signed with Donegal ETB by LYIT, addressing, among other objectives, engagement with industry.

Action 41

InterTradelreland will promote the Fusion Programme to SMEs in the region and will set a target of at least 18 Fusion approvals in 2015/16.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Since Jan 2015, 15 companies from the region have been approved for support through the FUSION programme. Their involvement with FUSION has now commenced.

Action 42

InterTradelreland will provide access to its Challenge Programme to SMEs in the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Challenge Programme remains open to all eligible companies in the region, as promoted through ITI's engagement with the LEOs. Thirty companies recently attended information sessions in Monaghan (March/April 2016). Nine of these engaged further with the programme by attending workshops in April and May.

Action 43

IDA will continue to roll out its Research, Development & Innovation Program to incentivise client companies in the region to develop new processes and products.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

IDA continues to encourage investment in R&D projects and centres of excellence, to link with research centres and colleges and offer grant assistance for R&D.

Action 44

Údarás will continue to roll out its Research, Development & Innovation Program to incentivise client companies in the Gaeltacht region to develop new processes and products.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Údarás na Gaeltachta has approved 5 feasibility studies, 1 research and development project and a life science company will participate in 2 innovation partnerships projects with 3rd level institutions.

Action 45

Support the Connaught Ulster Alliance (IT Sligo LyIT, & GMIT) in the process to become a Technological University.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In 2016, the HEA ring-fenced a level of funding to support costs arising from the continuation of landscape reform projects, as part of the implementation of the National Strategy for Higher Education. This funding (of up to €8.7m. in 2016) includes a specific €2m., allocated in Budget

2016 to support Technological University projects.

The HEA has also invited further submissions for funding support in respect of the costs arising from mergers as part of the implementation of the National Strategy for Higher Education. The total funding available in this call is c. €3.75m. Not all of this funding is for Technological Universities as there are also other mergers taking place in Higher Education.

Costs incurred to the end of 2015 were €400,000

Action 47

Through the INTERREG VA Programme, SEUPB will increase business industry-relevant Research and Innovation capacity across the Region within two sectors; 'Health & Life Sciences' and 'Renewable Energy', with an ERDF allocation of €45m.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

A call for applications to this priority (covering both sectors) was opened on 21st March 2016. Thematic workshops to support potential applicants were held on 22nd March (Derry-Londonderry) and 24 March (Inverness). Ten applications were received by the call closing date (6 May 2016). These are due to be considered at a stage 1 steering committee in June.

Action 48

Údarás na Gaeltachta will promote innovation through educational seminars and its financial supports for new and existing client companies to develop their enterprises within its innovation hubs in Áislann Ghaoth Dobhair agus Fiontarlann Chill Chartha.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

One seminar was held in March. More than 40 participants from the local area attended this seminar which had 8 national speakers on the topic of food tourism. A further seminar is planned for Q3/Q4, which will focus on regulation, quality and training.

Attracting and Embedding Foreign Direct Investment

Action 49

IDA will target a minimum of 61 new investments for the North East/ North West over the period 2015 – 2019; an increase of 30 to 40% on the strategy for 2010 – 2014.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

IDA Ireland continues to target at least 61 additional investment projects in the North East / North West Region over the period 2015-2019. IDA is marketing the North East/North West as a location for a range of different investment opportunities.

Action 50

IDA will continue to collaborate with their existing clients under the Transformation program, encouraging them to invest in new activities, innovation and to win new mandates.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Transformation investments are aimed at existing clients in the region, to ensure the sustainability of the operation and to further embed the companies in the region. IDA Ireland continues to support existing clients throughout the North East / North West Region. IDA Ireland works with client companies to review operations and to support investments that will ultimately make their operations more sustainable.

Action 52

Plan, develop and construct new Advanced Building Solution in Letterkenny.

Update: Complete

Narrative:

The Letterkenny office building was completed by IDA in mid-2015. In October 2015, SITA took occupation of the new office and held an official opening.

Action 54

Progress plans for accessing the IDA owned Oakfield lands in Sligo to enable new business park to be planned and developed.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

IDA is actively working with the Local Authority (LA) for the delivery of the distribution road. Specifically, IDA has designed (with the agreement of the LA) the access roadway into the IDA lands and IDA has appointed consulting engineers to prepare the land masterplan for same. The LA CPO land acquisition for the distribution road is ongoing. IDA understand that the LA objective

is to have the tender for the project issued by year end 2016. IDA continues to influence the wider stakeholders to ensure the project is expedited as quickly as possible.

Action 55

Growing on the successful strategy of providing property solutions, Údarás will continue a building and refurbishment programme to help support the attraction/expansion of Indigenous Investment and FDI in the North East/ North West.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Capital expenditure approved for An Áislann of €550k (see Action 27). Over €100k was spent on Unit 10 to refurbish it for an FDI contact centre (SLM Ceangal Éire Teo - projected jobs 125, investment of €1.8m by the promoters and grant aid of €842k).

Action 56

IDA Ireland will proactively update its online marketing “Invest in” series for the North East/ North West.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The ‘Invest in’ series for the North East/ North West is updated periodically, as required, to reflect relevant changes, recent news and investments.

IDA Ireland utilises the ‘Invest In’ web based marketing properties to assist in marketing business locations within the region to prospective investors.

Action 60

IDA Executives based overseas will visit relevant companies in the region to enhance their knowledge of the region to market it to potential inward investors.

Update: Complete

Narrative:

IDA Ireland has completed 8 familiarisation visits since mid-2015. In 2016, IDA completed five familiarisation visits to the North East / North West region involving new staff members and overseas staff based in Growth Markets (Europe and USA), as well as Irish based staff with new business responsibility from the main sectoral divisions. In 2015, three such familiarisation visits were completed.

Action 61

Develop a Regional Connect Ireland Plan that is integrated with the local authorities' enterprise development and job-creation activities and formalise the name of a nominated officer from each county in the region for the roll-out of the Plan.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

ConnectIreland has been working individually with the counties in the region to create a diaspora focused business message. In particular, ConnectIreland has worked on brochures, videos and newspaper articles promoting a business message aimed at the diaspora. The next step for this project will be to bring together local liaison offers to convert this county focus into an overall regional message. This is scheduled to take place between Q3- Q4 2016.

Action 62

Announce and run a Connectivation competition, inviting third level students to share their ideas for the future development of the Succeed in Ireland initiative.

Update: Delayed

Narrative:

This action has been postponed and is under review.

Building Sectoral Opportunities

Agrifood

Action 63

Teagasc will work with other responsible bodies and regional stakeholders to develop food innovation programmes and explore how Teagasc Ballyhaise College can contribute to the creation of a hub for agri-food technology and business process.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Ballyhaise is working with The Food Centre in Ashtown, exploring how this Food Innovation Programme can best be delivered.

Action 64

Teagasc will deliver product development workshops in the region targeting the development of 20 new food enterprises and will support the development of an artisan food hub pilot project in the region based on international best practice of such hubs.

Update: **Cancelled**

Narrative:

Due to resourcing issues, Teagasc is not in a position to undertake this action.

Action 65

Build on the success of established food festivals such as the Taste of Cavan to Showcase regional food producers, from artisan to large companies, through various food festivals in the region.

Update: **Ongoing**

Narrative:

LEOs in the region work closely with local artisan food producers to maximise their potential. They support food festivals, such as Taste of Cavan. The focus is on the region, with an emphasis on a regional food brand.

Donegal LEO continues to deliver the Food Coast Strategy and to work with private, community and public sector to achieve this.

Leitrim LEO developed the Taste Leitrim brand and actively promotes this initiative.

Action 67

Target an increase in the number of participants on the Food Academy Programme and progress a number of companies in the region to the next level -Food Academy Advance.

Update: **Complete**

Narrative:

LEOs promote and run the annual Food Academy Programme in line with agreed National MoUs/ Protocols with Bord Bia and Musgraves. The Food Academy programme was delivered in all counties - with the North West delivering on a 3-county basis (Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim). Four Leitrim participants, for example, progressed to trials with Supervalu. Sustaining the pipeline of food businesses will be a key issue into the future.

Action 68

Bord Bia to work with Retailers to assist food and drink companies in the North East/ North West to increase shelf space for local produce.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

There were two participants from the region in the Food Academy Advance programme in the first half of 2016. This Programme is run in conjunction with SuperValu (Musgraves). It affords the participants the opportunity to grow their business with SuperValu to a provincial (c. 30 stores) or even national level. Participants on this programme have already been on the Food Academy Start programme. There were no participants from the region in the Food Academy Start for the first half of 2016. It is designed to help new start-ups secure a trial listing with SuperValu for three months.

Action 69

Enterprise Ireland will target food companies in the North East/North West to scale and innovate in line with National Policy.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Supporting food companies in the North East and North West regions to grow is a key focus of EI. This is achieved through supporting food entrepreneurs to participate in the New Frontiers programme through working with Teagasc and Bord Bia and through initiatives such as the Food Innovation Vouchers.

Enterprise Ireland also works with its clients in the region on a one-to-one basis to develop annual growth action plans, focussed on export opportunities/NPD and jobs growth.

Action 71

Teagasc to continue to support and increase the level of farm diversification in the Region through their Option programme and their pilot Opt-In web portal.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Options Programme is planned for Ballyhaise in the Autumn of 2017. Options Course planned for Monaghan in Autumn 2018

Action 72

Promote Innovation Vouchers specifically targeting small food companies.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Food Innovation Voucher scheme was run in 2015 as a pilot to specifically target the sector and grow the number of vouchers used. The companies are now encouraged to use the standard Innovation Voucher scheme and this is promoted by regional and sectoral teams, plus the 3rd level and LEO networks, on an on-going basis.

Action 74

BIM and LYIT to further evolve the Killybeg's regional Seafood Development Hub set up in 2011.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Over the past three years, seven graduates have participated in various schemes with BIM in Killybegs - including four student placements on BIM's Seafood Graduate Development Programme in the Seafood Development Centre in Cork. A student participated in LYIT's MSC in Marketing Practice. Graduates participating in the BIM/LYIT Seafood Development Programme work with seafood processors on industry lead development projects in the region, using the product development facilities resourced by BIM at the School. LYIT, with support from BIM, DCC, Údarás and other seafood stakeholders are currently seeking to further leverage the strategic location of the Killybegs Campus by developing incubation units for the broader Maritime area (seafood, marine tourism, offshore/renewables). An IOE application is currently being prepared for EI's Campus Innovation Programme.

Creative Industries

Action 75

Map creative industries including Digital Content within the region and examine the potential for development of the sector within the Region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Donegal is currently considering a model for the mapping of creative industries in the county. A Creative Strategy was launched in 2015 and actions are currently being implemented.

All LEOs will meet to review the creative industries in the region in Q3 2016. The Leitrim LEO, in conjunction with the Arts Office, has developed Creative Frame - which assists with the

development of creative businesses within the county.

The Cavan LEO has identified Creative and Craft industries through the work of the Upper Shannon & Erne Future Economy project (USEFE), of which Cavan County Council is a partner.

The Sligo LEO refers to the work already completed by the Western Development Commission and uses this data as it offers support and service to the significant creative industries population in the county.

Action 76

Develop micro loans & entrepreneur vouchers for development of creative industries via small loans for start-ups, micro business.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The WDC VC Fund has approved two creative industry microloans, totalling €45k. It has also committed to funding of €1m towards the development of a Creative Pathways/Hub in Galway City.

The 6 County Enterprise Funds have been lending to SMEs in the Border Counties for over 25 years. Most Enterprise Funds have also developed significant facilities which provide workspace, training labs, food kitchens, creative hubs and hot-desks. The Louth Enterprise Fund, for example, has awarded 21 microloans in the period, at an average of €12K per client. It currently has a total of €650K out on loan to SMEs and Community Companies.

Action 77

Explore the potential to develop crafts hubs for the region similar to Drumshambo food hub. Enable the creative sector by bringing individuals together in "creative hubs" to promote design skills, help tourism, attract creative people into the region & improve quality of life.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Ardee Food Hub has been established in Louth by Ardee Business Park. This development offers a Timeshare Kitchen in which entrepreneurs can trial their new recipes. It also offers Food Production Units for rent to established food companies in the region.

In Donegal, a proposal has been developed for sub-county creative hubs. A review of food incubation units currently available in the county is underway. WDC has initiated an Enterprise Centre Network to explore opportunities for further economic development and innovation. Lookwest.ie is engaging with the creative sector on an ongoing basis to promote enterprise, tourism activities and to attract people to the region.

Monaghan County Council will be exploring the establishment of a Craft Hub in the Market House in Carrickmacross in Q4 2016.

Leitrim has already established the Hive Innovation Centre in Carrick-on-Shannon and ManorHub in Manorhamilton. Support has been provided through the REDZ initiative to make Manorhub a 24 hour facility. A link has now been formed between IT Sligo and the Hive to facilitate the delivery of training and education out into the regions.

Cavan County Council is working with Cavan Arts and Cultural Centre Ltd to develop a Cultural Quarter within Cavan Town, which includes the development of Cavan Town Hall into a multi-disciplinary arts and creative space. This initiative supports the development of an artist led facility, in which they will be able to develop their craft and promote the creative sector within Cavan.

Energy / Renewables

Action 79

Explore potential to develop a Renewable Energy Innovation Centre at Killybegs to maximise the potential of existing natural resources (wind farms, wave power, off shore wind, biomass) which are abundant in the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

LYIT has formed a Marine Campus Incubation Centre Working Group. LYIT, in conjunction with key stakeholders (Donegal County Council, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Donegal Local Enterprise Office, Irish Fish Producer's Organisation) will be submitting an Expression of Interest in response to Enterprise Ireland's Marine Campus Incubation Centre Competitive call.

The LYIT submission will focus on the establishment of an incubation centre in Killybegs which will develop and support new high-potential start-up companies in the diverse marine sector - which includes marine based renewable energy, seafood product development and marine tourism. Donegal County Council has been developing plans for such a centre, allied to the Food Technology Hub in Killybegs.

Action 80

Identify opportunities in Green Energy and on a cross border basis to encourage a low carbon environment, including: - Further development of cross border and international partnerships to support the development of sustainable technologies; - Provision of R & D support; - Provision of access to specialised equipment & facilities (on a cross border basis); - Provision of workshops, training and mentor support.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

As the national Energy Authority, SEAI continually promotes and assists the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy. SEAI is working with Donegal County Council on marine energy opportunities and with Louth County Council on a wider Smart Energy brief, under the Louth Economic Forum. SEAI continues to work with Invest NI and Queen's University on the development of an International ocean energy innovation network, with events planned in Dublin and Belfast for the end of 2016 and the start of 2017.

Action 82

Each local authority will adopt the principles of the guidelines for Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategies (LARES) when reviewing their County Development Plans and collectively examine the potential for Regional Renewable Energy strategies.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

This Action is complete in Louth. It is also complete in Leitrim, where an active Renewable Energy Group with sector experts meets quarterly. Leitrim County Council is also involved in the EU SECURE Interreg project. This project will provide an opportunity for Local Authority staff to gain expertise in energy efficiency and renewable technology solutions.

Donegal County Council has initiated the formal process of reviewing the County Development Plan and will consider these principles as part of this process.

Cavan County Council gave a commitment in the current Cavan County Development Plan (2014-2020) to undertake a Renewable Energy Strategy for the county during the lifetime of the plan. This Wind and Renewable Energy Strategy, which will include completion of a Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategies course (LARES), will commence in 2017. Since the adoption of the development plan, an Executive Planner has attended and completed the LARES training course.

Action 83

Complete a regional renewable energy analysis on the use of biomass as a local contribution to the national renewable heat target and develop a range of actions to support the development of renewable energy in the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Western Development Commission is in active discussion with SEAI, who are critical partners in the design and delivery of this project.

Action 84

Promote and assist the delivery of cost savings through energy efficiency programmes and training for businesses and public sector organisations in the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

SEAI Programmes for business are assisting local SMEs and Public Sector organisations save in the region of 20% off their energy bills. In Louth, SEAI has worked with Louth County Council and the Louth Meath Education and Training Board to develop a training course for small business energy managers. This has now commenced and is a model for other regions to follow. It will provide savings to the 45 businesses signed up in Louth as well as provide training for up to 20 course attendees.

Action 85

Work with SEAI to develop and promote Sustainable Energy Communities model in the region and identify willing early adopter communities to act as exemplars.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Louth, Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal Local Authorities have been working with SEAI on the Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Programme and each are leading SEC projects in their counties, identifying early adopter communities in the process. Louth County Council is well advanced with a full energy team appointed to the task and it has succeeded in getting support of over €1m from SEAI in 2015 and 2016 to advance county-wide initiatives.

Leitrim County Council is working with two communities involved in this programme - Mohill and Manorhamilton. The EU Interreg SECURE project, in which Leitrim County Council is a partner, will also provide the opportunity to share best practice across the NPA region with communities in Leitrim. An initial focus group was convened in Mohill in June as part of EU Energy Week.

Action 86

Ensure that the electricity transmission grid in the North East/ North West is strengthened to enable maximum investment by industries that rely on large energy consumption.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

EirGrid will continue to ensure that the region has a secure and reliable supply of electricity in order to maximise the potential for investment in the region.

Action 87

Develop the North-South Electricity Interconnector as a key piece of energy infrastructure which will enable job creation and economic development in the North East/ North West.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The North-South Interconnector, a key piece of electricity infrastructure for future regional and national economic development, is currently in Planning.

Retail

Action 88

Local authorities and Retail Groups to develop collaborations to support the regeneration and development of their towns through town centre strategic development plans. Develop measures in conjunction with property owners and investors to address derelict properties. Provide support and assistance to pop up shops and markets in principal towns of the region enabling artisan food producers, artists and craft makers to showcase and sell their products.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In Monaghan, Town Regeneration Teams have been formed in five towns - Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Monaghan. These Teams include representation from County Council staff, councillors and local businesses. Plans are in place for regeneration measures in Clones and Ballybay.

Leitrim County Council has established a Town Centre Team in Carrick-on-Shannon, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. This involves also setting up two sub-committees looking at Public Realm/Town Offer and Citizen Engagement/Marketing of the Town. The sub-committees meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis and the Town Team on a quarterly basis. An initial database of vacant properties has been compiled by the LEO and a town architect is presenting to the Town Team at their next meeting in July, to explore possible options to enhance the town and reduce dereliction. The provision of Pop-Up shops is also being explored by the Dock Arts Centre.

Donegal County Council is engaged with Letterkenny Chamber to develop projects in relation to Letterkenny and with local community groups and chambers in other towns in the county.

Louth County Council and Louth LEO, liaising with the Chambers of Commerce in Dundalk and

Drogheda, have developed a retail investment prospectus for both towns. These are available on the County Council website. The brochures are part of a campaign to promote Dundalk and Drogheda as excellent retail destinations. Louth County Council and the LEO have been working with Retail Excellence Ireland and (in liaison with the Chambers of Commerce in Dundalk and Drogheda) have entered both towns in the retail awards competition, with the aim of highlighting the positive retail experience in both town centres. It is also planned to roll out other retail improvement schemes in the second half of 2016.

Louth County Council continues to support the BIDS company in Dundalk and during the first half of 2016 a new Town Centre Manager was appointed, to encourage and support business development in the centre of Dundalk. A new Heritage Quarter team is being formed to develop Drogheda's strong heritage into a value proposition for visitors.

In Cavan, Town Teams have been established in Cavan, Virginia and Cootehill. The teams are comprised of representatives of local businesses and communities and elected members. Work has commenced on the preparation of Town Plans, which will identify projects and initiatives that will help promote and rejuvenate those towns.

Action 89

The Local Authorities will develop Business Incentive Schemes (e.g. Rates Incentive Scheme, Development Levies Scheme) to support retail and attract business into town centres.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

New Business Incentive, Rates Incentive and Shop Front Guidelines have been developed for Louth.

In Monaghan, the 2014 Development Levy Scheme is under review.

Currently Donegal County Council provides a small business grants scheme which provides a 5% reduction in rates payable, provided rates are paid in the current year.

Action 90

Collaborate to examine ways to revive and reinvigorate retailing at County and Regional level.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Louth is working to develop a Retail Investment Prospectus in conjunction with Chambers of Commerce and Retail Excellence Ireland.

Donegal has ongoing discussions with the Chambers of Commerce.

In Monaghan, the Retail Excellence Ireland programme has been adopted and a Town Centre Co-ordinator appointed.

Through its Town Team initiative, Cavan County Council will continue to work collaboratively with Cavan Chamber of Commerce to develop and promote initiatives in Cavan Town such as Christmas Markets, Taste of Cavan and Retail Excellence Ireland initiatives (e.g. Ireland's Friendliest Place).

Manufacturing / engineering and tool making

Action 91

Pursue the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Toolmaking & Design as a training centre.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

IT Sligo is currently pursuing the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Precision Engineering & Manufacturing (PEM), which will offer cutting-edge applied research at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3-7. It will also provide high quality specialist education and its world class facilities will work closely with industry and network with national and international agencies. The Centre of Excellence for Precision Engineering & Manufacturing will become an important national resource and a critical enabler for the development of specialist precision engineering technologies, now essential to ensure advanced manufacturing industry in Ireland continues to compete globally and is prepared for the rapidly evolving technological developments currently taking place. Progress to date includes a €1m investment in state-of-the-art equipment, approval of new L7 and L8 BEng programmes in Precision Engineering and Design and the designation by Enterprise Ireland (Jan 2016) of the PEM Strategic Research Centre as a funded Technology Gateway.

Action 92

Explore the potential for adding value to forestry raw materials for job creation. Expand the potential for training local harvesters & manufacturers of wood related products.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Leitrim County Council, through its Renewable Energy Group, has been looking at the issue around access to thinning for small plantations, as the loss of thinnings results in a reduction in the value of the timber available at final harvesting. The group identified a possible solution which the LEO is supporting and a number of jobs have been created as a result.

Action 93

Enterprise Ireland will target manufacturing companies in the North East/ North West to scale, innovate and develop international markets.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Supporting manufacturing and internationally traded service companies in the North East/North West region to grow is a key focus of Enterprise Ireland. This is achieved by working with client companies on a one-to-one basis to deliver on their business plans.

Financial support was provided by Enterprise Ireland to support business growth plans of individual companies in the North East / North West region. In addition to this financial support, extra support was provided through access to a range of programmes such as Management & Leadership development, Trade Missions, Selling Opportunity events, Mentoring, providing Market Intelligence and more. Also, Enterprise Ireland has been active in the development of the market for risk money, enterprise space, and the innovation infrastructure. Some of the funding is provided to schemes nationally that deliver locally, while some funding is provided locally.

In response to Brexit, Enterprise Ireland, has set up a helpline and email address to provide assistance to its clients, and is implementing a range of plans to assist Irish exporters. In addition, EI will fine-tune existing support tools to address new UK market conditions.

Tourism

Action 96

Provide a suite of business supports to high potential tourism groups and businesses in the region to build capability and capacity in the tourism sector.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Fáilte Ireland constantly monitors and engages with the tourism industry on training requirements in line with market trends, digital marketing, sales and business supports that develop the capability of the industry to increase sales and bed-nights. This is done in partnership with local authorities and other agencies.

Action 97

Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland to market the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and Lakelands Region as a tourism destination and Fáilte Ireland to identify any gaps in the Tourism Sector in the Region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland, along with their industry partners, continue to develop and promote the Wild Atlantic Way to increase overseas awareness of the product and ensure that there is an increase in visitors, both regionally and in the shoulder season. Investment in key signature points along the Wild Atlantic Way is ongoing by local authorities and the Fáilte Ireland Large Capital Investment Scheme - as well as other funding streams.

Donegal Tourism is working closely with Fáilte Ireland to promote the WAW. Donegal County Council also works closely with Fáilte Ireland to develop infrastructure and iconic sites. Cavan County Council has commenced work on a Tourism Strategy for the county and will leverage the opportunities afforded by Fáilte Ireland's 'Ancient East' branding, particularly around flagship sites such as Cavan Burren, Cavan County Museum, Castle Saunderson and Killykeen.

Action 98

Promote the Wild Atlantic Way as a destination of choice for adventure sports and outdoor recreational activities.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland are working with industry partners, overseas buyers, on-line travel agencies and media & publicity to increase the awareness of the Wild Atlantic Way, both domestically and in the key overseas markets of Great Britain, France, Germany and the US.

Donegal County Council has made substantial budgetary provision in respect of tourism marketing for the county, together with capital investment in the 3 signature points at Sliabh Liag, Fanad Lighthouse and Malin Head.

Action 99

Develop a Blueway in Leitrim.

Update: Complete

Narrative:

The Shannon-Erne Blueway is a series of scenic trails from Leitrim Village in County Leitrim to Belturbet in County Cavan, linking with the Erne System at Crom in County Fermanagh. It provides a range of recreational leisure activities such as walking, cycling, canoeing, fishing and cruising, all linked by the waterways to local towns and villages.

Action 100

Support the development and expansion of the Blueway network in the central area of the region through collaboration and co-operation of the relevant stakeholders enabling the region develop its potential as a premier base for water sports and a 'go-to' destination for water based recreational activity in Ireland.

Update: Complete

Narrative:

The Shannon-erne Blueway was officially launched at Ballyconnell Marina, County Cavan on 28 May 2016. This 70km paddling, walking and cycling trail runs from Leitrim Village to Belturbet, linking with the Erne system at Crom Estate in County Fermanagh. A range of guides were also produced to assist visitors in making the most of their time in the area. These included Blueways Outdoor Activities Guide, Blueways Foot Trail, Blueways Art & Craft Trail and Blueways Heritage & Culture Trail. Details are available on the website (www.bluewaysireland.org).

Action 101

Support further development and promotion of Cavan Burren Geopark as a key cross border and North East/ North West tourist attraction.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark is already in existence and has been accredited by UNESCO. It includes parts of County Fermanagh and County Cavan. Cavan County Council is working in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District to develop, promote and market the Global Geopark. Arrangements have been made to develop a strategic plan for the governance, branding and further development of the Geopark and this will commence shortly. UNESCO evaluators recently carried out a re-validation of the Geopark. This visit was hosted by both Councils.

The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark is a partner in the INTERREG VB Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme (2014 -2020), titled Drifting Apart. This Programme supports the development of new and aspiring Global Geoparks and the promotion of innovative products and services for economic prosperity across the Northern Periphery region. It also promotes the development of a strong network of Northern Periphery Global Geoparks.

An application has been submitted by Cavan County Council to INTERREG VB (Atlantic Area Transnational Cooperation Programme 2014-2020). This particular project aims to promote and disseminate the geological and cultural heritage of the Atlantic Geoparks, to attract tourist flows and to generate new economic activity in the Cavan/Fermanagh region of the Geopark.

Funding options are currently being investigated to develop Phase II of the Cavan Burren Park

project - to incorporate additional trails, a children's park and interpretive features on-site.

Action 102

Develop the potential of 'inland' water based activities and tourism in the central area of the Region, particularly in the areas of fishing/angling, canoeing, kayaking. Promote cross border tourism projects in this area having regard to the potential afforded by the Shannon Erne Waterway.

Update: Complete

Narrative:

See Action 100 on the launch of Shannon - Erne Blueway.

Action 103

Support the reopening and development of the Ulster Canal and enhance the visitor attraction potential of Castle Saunderson to complement redevelopment of the canal.

Update: Delayed

Narrative:

The project to open up navigation to Castle Saunderson on the River Finn on the Cavan/Fermanagh border is ongoing. See also comments on action 108 for Ulster Canal Greenway proposal. Monaghan County Council is progressing the Ulster Canal Greenway Project, proceeding to Stage II of Interreg Funding. Cavan Co Council has secured funding from Fáilte Ireland for the development of recreational trails and walks around Castle Saunderson. Tenders have also been received for the preparation of a feasibility study for the development of the Castle, outhouses and surrounding area. Work is almost complete on the preparation of a planning application for the provision of a jetty and playground facility on-site.

Action 105

Develop tourism related maritime projects such as sailing/ yachting / cruise ships in the north west (Killybegs) of the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Donegal County Council and Donegal Tourism continue to promote Killybegs and Greencastle as a cruise destination to international operators. In addition, the Malinwaters and Wildsea Europe projects continue to promote the maritime offerings of the coast.

Action 108

Identify and develop greenway / blueway networks in the Region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Louth County Council is preparing a funding application for a cross-border greenway, in conjunction with Newry, Mourne & Down Council. In Monaghan, the Ulster Canal Greenway Project is proceeding to Stage II of the Interreg Funding Programme. Waterways Ireland has led a partnership of councils in Cavan, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Armagh working on a greenway proposal along the disused cross-border Ulster Canal.

In April 2016, a Stage 2 application to Interreg VA (Sustainable Transport) was submitted to SEUPB. The project is for 22km of greenway between Smithborough, County Monaghan and Middletown, County Armagh along the Ulster Canal. Partners are Monaghan and Armagh councils and East Border Partnership Ltd. SEUPB will issue its decision in October 2016. An additional proposal has been submitted to Interreg for a cross-border greenway from Manorhamilton to Enniskillen (The partners are Leitrim, Cavan and Fermanagh and Omagh District Councils).

Cavan County Council has commissioned Roughan & O'Donovan, Consulting Engineers to prepare a Preliminary Design and Environmental Screening Report for the proposed Cavan & Leitrim Railway Greenway. This scheme is 54km in length from Belturbet (Cavan) to Drumod (Leitrim) and is being developed in partnership with Leitrim County Council. An application is currently being prepared for a potential greenway between Cavan Burren Park and Marble Arch Caves Visitor Centre in County Fermanagh - as part of the crossborder UNESCO Geopark project.

Action 109

Údarás na Gaeltachta will provide a capacity building programme in tourism related enterprises.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Údarás delivered three programmes with product providers (up to 30 involved) in the last 15 months and plans to roll out others in the shoulder season.

Action 110

Promote and raise awareness of Fáilte Ireland's new international accreditation for alternative accommodation ('Welcome Standard') among providers of, or those interested in developing, non-mainstream accommodation options in the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Welcome Standard has been communicated to trade, stakeholders and industry partners and details are available on www.failteireland.ie. Fáilte Ireland will continue to increase awareness of this new accreditation.

Cross-border initiatives

Action 111

Explore potential to develop Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with all counties or groups of counties as appropriate on both sides of the Border as per Newry/Mourne/Louth initiative, under such themes as: (i) Renewable Energy and Green Technology; (ii) Tourism and Recreation; (iii) Sustainable Economic Growth, Job Creation; (iv) Emergency Planning.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The MOU between Louth and Newry, Mourne & Down is in place.

An MOU between the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) and Cavan County Council Fire Service is in place since April 2016. Both partners to this MOU commit to working together in a spirit of mutual co-operation, establishing operational protocols which will ensure that fire personnel can carry out their responsibilities at Road Traffic Collisions in an effective and efficient manner. It sets out the principles of effective liaison, collaboration, communication and mutual cooperation between the parties on both sides of the Border.

Action 112

Develop cross border Activity Tourism.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In Donegal, the Lough Foyle Ferry service, in conjunction with Causway Coast and Glens Council, has now been re-established and will operate from July to September 2016.

Leitrim County Council is leading the development of a cross-border Greenway project between Manorhamilton and Enniskillen.

Action 114

Advance East-west greenway corridor from Larne to Sligo and north to Derry/Letterkenny, via Ulster Canal, Sligo-Enniskillen Railway in line with strategic routes developed by Dept of Agriculture and Regional Development NI.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In Louth, a funding application is being prepared for a cross-border Greenway, in conjunction with Newry, Mourne & Down Council.

In Donegal, an Interreg application has been submitted under the Greenways fund, in conjunction with Derry City & Strabane District Councils.

The Monaghan Ulster Canal Greenway Project is proceeding to Stage II of Interreg Funding.

Leitrim County Council has submitted an application to Interreg VA for a Greenway between Manorhamilton and Enniskillen.

A Feasibility Study is underway to explore the potential for a Sligo - Manorhamilton Greenway.

Skills enhancement and labour market activation

Action 116

Establish the North West and North East Regional Skills Fora to foster better engagement between education providers, employers and other regional stakeholders, on an ongoing basis, to collaborate in building the skills of the region.

Update: Complete

Narrative:

Two Regional Skills Fora (North East Forum and North West Forum), which include the Institutes of Technology in the region and the Education and Training Boards, have been established to connect education providers with employers to build the skills of the region. The Forums are a collaborative partnership between Enterprise, Education & Training Providers, Enterprise Agencies, Local Authorities, Government Bodies and Local Development Organisations in the Region.

Action 117

HEIs to collaborate with Industry to raise awareness of career opportunities, to 3rd Level students and explore potential for cross border collaboration.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

DkIT continues to raise awareness of career opportunities to 3rd level students through the work of the Career's Office and the Work Placement Office. DkIT is in the process of planning its Annual Industry/Careers Fair in November 2016 to promote career awareness with industry.

Engagement between Engineering industry representatives and the IOTs and ETBs is ongoing under the auspices of the Regional Skills Forum.

Action 118

Improve communication between public bodies & employers in relation to recruitment services to support the link between employers and people who are job-seeking to see posts filled more quickly.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Department of Social Protection continues to collaborate, respond innovatively, match employers' needs, recruit to vacancies and provide employment support to employer representatives, business leaders and public agencies. The DSP Employer Engagement process encompasses direct employer liaison, encouraging corporate social responsibility and supporting economic growth with business, education and enterprise partners.

Action 119

Develop professional precision engineering toolmaking training programmes in collaboration with employers and I.T.s.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Engagement between Engineering industry representatives and the IOTs and ETBs is ongoing under the auspices of the Regional Skills Forum.

Action 120

Meet the skills shortages in process technician roles in Medtech, Plastics and Engineering sector in the North East/ North West by providing training conversion programmes at level 6.

Update: Complete

Narrative:

IDA Ireland, DSP, IMDA Skillnet and 5 Sligo Med Tech / polymer companies developed and ran an Engineering Process Technician Programme Level 6 from Sept 2015 until May 2016 (including 3 month paid placement). Review meeting with companies on 23rd May 2016 revealed that 82%

completed placement, 69 % were employed and 6% were still in placement. Companies will support a repeat programme in Jan 2017.

Action 121

Continue to host HR forums through Ibec's regional offices for Ibec members.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Ibec continues to host quarterly HR forums through its regional office in Donegal Town. The focus of the forum is the HR and IR issues which are of current interest and relevance to members, from both a local and national perspective.

Ibec will be running a North East regional skills and innovation themed event in Oct 2016.

Action 122

Develop and roll out new range of national apprenticeship programmes.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In the North East, discussions are underway regarding the roll-out of apprenticeships within the region.

The Apprenticeship Council is continuing to work closely with the proposers of new apprenticeships with a view to developing them into sustainable apprenticeships that can be delivered on a nationwide basis. Recent months have seen the first of the new apprenticeships with the new Insurance Practitioner Apprenticeship launching and the Industrial Engineer Apprenticeship getting underway. Further new apprenticeships are due to launch in the coming months in various sectors including medical devices, polymer processing and financial services.

Action 123

The Local Enterprise Offices will collaborate with Skillnets and other relevant training bodies to ensure a streamlined approach to training offerings in the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

There is a National LEO/Skillnets protocol in place which governs dissemination of information, information signposting and inter-agency referrals.

LEOs are, as part of the NE Regional Skills Forum, ensuring a co-ordinated approach to training

offerings in the region. For example, LEO Leitrim promotes Skillnets training and has recently met with ETB and DSP to ensure a streamlined approach. LEO Louth promotes Skillnets training and has met with the LMETB and DSP, also to ensure a streamlined approach.

Action 124

Provide skills training and upskilling initiatives for farmers in accounting services, health & safety.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Health/Safety Courses are to be held in Ballyhaise and Monaghan in Autumn 2016. Pilot Farm 999 Emergency Course will held in Ballyhaise in Autumn 2016.

Action 125

Continue to develop “entrepreneurship in education” learning outcomes in courses at 3RD Level institutions in the Region.

Update: Complete

Narrative:

DkIT has completed the action of embedding entrepreneurship learning outcomes in all its programmes across its four Schools. DkIT has been identified as a leading exemplar for embedding entrepreneurship in higher education by The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). A case study released by the OECD in May 2016 and showcased at the HEInnovate Dissemination Event, describes the strong culture of enterprise and innovation that permeates DkIT and examines the Institute’s strategic approach to developing entrepreneurial behaviours in its students and staff.

In general, each HEI is incorporating this theme as part of its strategic planning and programmatic reviews.

Action 127

Exploit proximity to Border by developing greater cooperation with NI & Scotland e.g. matching suppliers & talent.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

ITI, in partnership with the LEOs, Enterprise Northern Ireland, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands Enterprises, submitted a bid to the Interreg VA Programme in Feb 2016 for funding under the call "Research & Innovation Objective 1.2 – Enhance Innovation Capacity of SME’s". If

successful, this will facilitate partnerships between business and academia across the three regions.

Action 129

The Dept. of Social Protection will collaborate with stakeholders such as Enterprise Ireland and IDA in promoting the recruitment of people from the Live Register amongst client companies.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Department of Social Protection has established excellent working relations with both the IDA and Enterprise Ireland and through these channels, promotes the recruitment of people from the live register. The Department, through its employer engagement units, also engages directly with employers to promote the various incentive and employment related projects that are available to employers who recruit individuals from the live register.

Action 130

Develop cross border higher education Networks (Letterkenny/Derry and Dundalk /Belfast) to facilitate movement of talent, to capitalise on broader job creation opportunities and to support access to third level education and training to enhance enterprise and economic development throughout the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

LYIT continues to drive the development of a cross-border higher education cluster in the North West. This project is moving ahead with the support of the Local Authorities on both sides of the border. DkIT continues to promote its third level education and training opportunities to potential students across the border into Northern Ireland. In addition, DkIT continues to promote enterprise development opportunities through its work in the Regional Development Centre and in particular, linking the skills and expertise of the Institute to the needs of industry on a cross-border basis, through such programmes as ITI's Fusion Programme.

Action 131

Enterprise Ireland will promote the newly launched Graduate Placement Programme through their North East/ North West regional offices.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Graduate Placement Programme is currently recruiting and is being promoted to clients in the region through EI's Development Advisers, social media and national press.

Action 132

Údarás na Gaeltachta will develop and host 6 educational seminars (2 per annum) for business people along with networking events in the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

One seminar held and others planned for Q3/Q4 - See Action 48.

Action 133

Provide one to one support to long term unemployed clients before they approach employment or training.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Department of Social Protection continues to provide a responsive activation process to short term unemployed. The Department is currently rolling out its new Jobpath initiative. This initiative is targeted at long term unemployed. Participants on JobPath will receive intensive individual support to help them address barriers to employment and to assist them in finding jobs. They will spend a year on JobPath and if they are placed into a job, they may continue to receive support for the first year of employment. The Local Employment Services also provides mediation and career guidance for long term unemployed jobseekers pursuing education, training or employment.

Building business networks

Action 135

Develop/ strengthen the existing Chambers to provide a cohesive approach to business support and development across the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Chambers Ireland call regional meetings once every four months. In the North East, Dundalk, Drogheda, Kells and Cavan are active participants. Dundalk, Newry and Warrenpoint Chambers meet more regularly. Personal relationships are strong and agenda items focus on cross-border trade and infrastructure.

Action 136

Continue to operate Ibec sector specific regional networks.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Ibec is currently reviewing the feasibility of operating specific networks in the North East/ North West region.

Action 137

Hold a Regional Business Roadshow on a topic of relevance to business. Ibec will also host a Regional Business Summit for Ibec members.

Update: Complete

Narrative:

This event was hosted by Ibec in Harvey's Point Country Hotel, Lough Eske, Donegal Town, on Thursday 12 May 2016.

The aim of this event was to help companies discover practical ideas and supports and generate actual business growth from their innovation efforts. Sligo IT and Letterkenny IT provided an overview of the supports available for businesses as they either commence or continue their innovation journey. Ibec provided insight on how a company can ensure that employees are ready and willing to support the innovation efforts of the organisation. Ibec also spoke about the ecosystem necessary to nurture and enhance innovative enterprise and what the participants could do to impact this.

The Roadshow was also joined by local businesses including Abbott Ireland and Marine Harvest who told the story of their experience of innovation and what it has meant for their business.

Action 138

Continue to host HR fora through Ibec's regional offices for Ibec members.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Regional Roadshow Series took place in May 2016 in Donegal on the topic of Innovation - and the importance of prioritising innovation and how business can avail of available funding. The need to collaborate with HEIs in the region was also emphasised. The event was open to all businesses and stakeholder organisations in the North West region. Over 90 businesses attended.

Ibec will also host a Regional Business Summit for Ibec members in Q4 2016.

Action 142

Organise a Regional Student Enterprise Network to support Student Entrepreneurship.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

DkIT are currently exploring how this might be achieved.

Action 143

Organise six-monthly meetings of all relevant public bodies within the region to share information on plans, programmes, activities to provide a co-ordinated support to industry in the area

Update: Complete

Narrative:

It is proposed that the APJ North East/North West Regional Implementation Committees will fulfil this role.

Action 144

Improve first stop shop linking businesses with communities etc

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Leitrim County Council has in place both a one stop number and one stop website (called Leitrim One Call to Success), which has been operational for the last 4 years.

Marketing the region as an attractive place to work and live

Action 145

Develop a Marketing Strategy / Integrated Awareness Campaign (internal & external) to promote the whole of the North East/ North West as a great place to live, work & play. (Look West Model) identifying the unique selling points of the region.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In Donegal, work is currently underway with Derry City and Strabane District Council to develop joint promotional material.

In Monaghan, a branding initiative for the county is underway, with the online brochures complete.

In Leitrim, the County Council organised a "Join the Economic Renaissance" event in Dublin in May 2016, which was promoted to businesses on the East Coast and to Leitrim diaspora to showcase workspace, quality of life and job opportunities in the Leitrim area.

Action 146

Develop an events plan for the North East/ North West showcasing what the Region has to offer (Food, drink, entertainment, business, tourism).

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Donegal County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta and LYIT Killybegs have developed a Marine Tourism course funded under the CEDRA programme for commencement in September with an intake of a minimum of 15. Under Donegal Food Strategy, a series of food events is currently being developed for the county.

Louth County Council has developed an Events Calendar for Dundalk and the North Louth region. It also inputs into the Boyne Valley events calendar - for Drogheda and the Southern part of the county.

Under the new Tourism and Heritage Action Plan for County Louth, it is proposed (in the 2nd half of 2016) to review and coordinate both calendars into a single calendar for the county.

Action 147

Working with the Regional Airports, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly will undertake work across a range of areas to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of these airports funded by the EU's SPARA2020 (Smart Peripheral and Remote Airports Project).

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The SPARA project, within which the NWRA is a partner, commenced in mid-2015. To date, there

has been good progress with the two Regional Airports, who are associate partners of the project - Ireland West Airport Knock (IWAK) and Donegal Airport. The first project was carried out in November 2015. This was a services audit of Ireland West Knock Airport's parking facilities to enhance future capacity. The audit carried out a review of the car parking system currently in IWAK and presented IWAK with a number of proposals which could be incorporated into their car parking system to achieve greater efficiencies. Currently ongoing is an audit of the non-aeronautical services of Donegal and Knock Airports. This audit will review the current non-aeronautical services within each airport and propose a number of short and long term measures which will enhance these services within the airports - which is key to regional airports' sustainability. A pilot project will be run within each Regional Airport on the short term solutions proposed. This will commence before the end of 2016.

Action 148

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly will continue to explore possibilities for EU funding for relevant projects in the region. The Assembly also acts as the national contact point for three EU Interreg Programmes for the 2014-2020 period i.e. Northern Periphery and Arctic (€56 m), Atlantic Area (€140m) and Interreg Europe (€359m – jointly with the Southern Assembly).

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly has, since 2014, overseen three calls for proposals under the Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme.

25 projects have been approved to date across the Programme Area, 16 of which involve 25 Irish partners. 48% of the Programme Budget has been allocated.

A fourth call for projects opened on 1st May and closes on November 30th 2016. In the case of the Atlantic Area Programme, the opening call for Expressions of Interest commenced on April 26th 2016 and closed on 31st May 2016.

A total of 425 Expressions of Interest applications were received. 149 of these are positioned within the Innovation and Competitiveness priority, supporting SME development and innovation capacity building.

In the case of the INTERREG Europe Programme, a total of nine Irish projects were approved.

Action 149

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly will continue to manage the ERDF Gateway Fund which can provide potential investment in the economic, social and cultural infrastructure of the Gateway Towns of Letterkenny, Dundalk and Sligo.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Under the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme, the total awarded in the North West and North East region was €6m - out of a total award of €14 M awarded to the Border/Midlands/Western region. The allocation in the North West/North West region is as follows:

1. Sligo - €2m for two projects. This is for enhancements to O'Connell Street to provide limited vehicular access with pedestrian priority, new widened pavements, new street furniture and landscaping, reduced traffic flow, and shared space for cyclists. The money will also be spent on the provision of a new community centre in Cranmore to regenerate an identified disadvantaged urban area.
2. Letterkenny - €2m is being awarded to 3 projects. Upgrading the Joe Bonner Link Road will increase connectivity between areas of high activity in the town, thereby boosting opportunities for employment in the town. Constructing a new Social Enterprise building will create a communal space to house key community and voluntary groupings. Under the sustainable transport grants, the upgrading of town linkages will give opportunity for safe walking and pedestrian infrastructure, and lessen car usage.
3. Dundalk - €2m for Clanbrassil Street and St Nicholas Quarter rejuvenation. The funding is granted in support of a rejuvenation scheme to re-invigorate this area and create a new identity for this key gateway into the town. Works include street improvements, better public spaces, a new café culture, incorporated public art, a new street signage strategy and a facade improvement scheme for historic buildings.

Action 150

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly will continue to lead the implementation of the €320 million Border, Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 in collaboration with relevant public bodies.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

All measures in the BMW Regional Operational Programme (2014 - 2020) have commenced, apart from the National Broadband Scheme, where the National Broadband Steering Committee is finalising the procurement process for the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan. The second Monitoring Committee meeting of the BMW OP took place on 12 May, 2016 and progress was reported on all measures in the Operational Programme. Cumulative public eligible expenditure to end December 2015 is reported as €12.943m.

The following are examples of the schemes being funded:

- Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centres Programme - 5 awards were made

under the Research Centre programme with an SFI award value of €122m.

- SFI Spokes Programme - 10 awards were made under the Spokes Programme with an SFI award value of €17,365.
- SFI Investigators Programme - 6 awards were made under the Investigator Programme, which is based in the Northern and Western region.
- Marine Research Programme - no expenditure or achievements have been reported because the Intermediate Body has not entered into any contractual commitments for co-funding under this programme. In addition, the Intermediate Body is considering changing the activities under the priority which might lead to a programme modification. These changes will be discussed between the Intermediate Body and the Managing Authority during the course of 2016.
- EI Commercialisation Fund (CF) - In 2014, 12 applications for Commercial Case Feasibility support from BMW Institutions were received and 11 projects were funded. 24 applications for CF support were submitted to the 2014 programme of which 9 were funded. In 2015, 14 applications were received and 11 were funded.
- EI Innovation Partnerships Programme - In 2014, 11 projects were approved under the Innovation Partnerships Programme and 18 were approved in 2015.

EI Industry R&D Fund - There were 5 enterprises receiving R&D supports in 2015.

Action 151

Leitrim County Council and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly will develop a three year strategic project to develop and market a cluster of slow tourism adventure SMEs in Leitrim and potentially the wider region funded under the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

Leitrim County Council has secured EU Programme funding to develop a slow tourism adventure project. Initial steering group meetings have been convened and business networking events held across the international project area.

Action 152

Secure resources through LEADER/REDZ/ Village and Town Renewal Schemes to invest in towns and villages in the region to enhance their attractiveness as leisure and retail destinations.

Update: Ongoing

Narrative:

In Louth, REDZ funding has been received for Ardee and Drogheda. An Urban Development Fund has been approved for Dundalk.

In Donegal, LCDC will submit applications when relevant funding comes on stream.

In Monaghan, REDZ Investment of €150,000 in Castleblayney complete.

In Leitrim, funding has been secured to provide supports within the Manorhamilton REDZ area, which includes the development of an Action Plan for the town and a strategy for land use. In addition, supports were provided to two social enterprises and to the ManorHub, to increase the viability and attractiveness of the area.

Cavan County Council, in conjunction with the LEO, LCDC and the Town Teams, are preparing projects in the areas of tourism, food and digital strategy - for submission when the relevant funding becomes available.

